

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The presently pending claims are claims 2-5, 8, and 12-14. Claims 2, 3, 4, 8, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-11, and 15 have been canceled.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,232,686 to Syler (Syler). In response, the Applicant has amended 8 to better differentiate Applicant's invention from Syler. Amended claim 8 incorporates the limitations of original claim 11, a claim that was objected by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected claim. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

In paragraphs 3 and 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, and 8-9 under U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,489,448 to Cairo (Cairo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,885,694 to (Ulm). In response, the Applicant has canceled claims 1, 6 and 9. Claim 8 has been amended to better differentiate Applicant's invention from Cairo and Ulm. Amended claim 8 incorporates the limitations of original claim 11, a claim that was objected by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected claim. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depended upon amended independent claim 8. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 2, 3, and 8 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Cairo in view of Ulm, as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of U.S.

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Patent No. 1,856,847 to Gates (Gates). Applicant has amended 8. Amended claim 8 incorporates the limitations of original claim 11, a claim that was objected by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected claim. In addition, claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend upon amended independent claim 8. Claim 15 has been canceled. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 4 and 5 is respectfully requested.

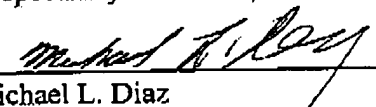
In paragraph 6, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Cairo in view of Ulm, as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,723 to Stanek (Stanek). In response, the Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 10.

In paragraph 7, the Examiner objected to claims 11-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended claims 8 to incorporate all the limitations of claim 11 and any intervening claims. Claims 12-13 depend upon claim 8. In addition, claim 11 has been canceled. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 8 and 12-14 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 2-5, 8, and 12-14.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Michael L. Diaz  
Registration No. 40,588

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Michael L. Diaz, P.C.  
555 Republic Drive, Suite 200  
Plano, Texas 75074  
(972) 578-5669